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“The Souldiers Pocket Bible ; containing the most (if not all) those places contained in holy Scripture which doe shew the qualifications of his inner man, that is a fit Souldier to fight the Lords Battels, both before he fight, in the fight, and after the fight : which Scriptures are reduced to severall heads, and fitly applyed to the souldiers severall occasions, and so may supply the want of the whole Bible, which a souldier cannot conveniently carry about him ; and may bee also useful for any Christian to meditate upon now in this miserable time of warre.

“*Imprimatur*, Edm. Calamy.

“Jos. 18. — ‘This Book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth ; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou maist observe to doe according to all that is written therein : for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and have good successe.’

“Printed at London by G. B. and R. W. for G. C., 1643.”

SEPTEMBER MEETING.

The Society held their stated monthly meeting this day, Thursday, Sept. 13, at twelve o'clock, m. ; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the American Antiquarian Society ; Essex Institute ; New-York State Agricultural Society ; Smithsonian Institution ; George Livermore, Esq., as executor of Thomas Dowse ; Hon. S. H. Walley ; Mrs. William T. Harris ; Winthrop Sargent, Esq. ; John Bartlett, Esq. ; Mrs. Sarah B. Putnam ; Miss Mary E. Pettes ; Rev. E. M. Stone ; T. Bigelow Lawrence, Esq. ; Miss Ann D. Bartlett ; D. C. Gilman, Esq. ; Alfred Poor, Esq. ; Hon. J. G. Palfrey ; William Durrant Cooper, Esq., of London ; Rev. E. A. Park, D.D. ; Hon. Theron Metcalf ; George

Arnold, jun. ; and from Messrs. Adams, Deane, Green, Robbins (C.), and Warren, of the Society.

After the usual introductory business of the meeting had been completed, the President remarked as follows : —

I am sure you will pardon me, gentlemen, for occupying a very few moments of your time, on resuming the chair this morning, in expressing the great pleasure with which I find myself once more among you, and in offering you my grateful acknowledgments for your long indulgence. Could I have foreseen so protracted an absence from my post, when I left you fifteen months ago, I should certainly have made my resignation of the presidency absolute, instead of merely leaving it, as I did, in the discretion of the Standing Committee. But I have been detained abroad, as you know, by circumstances beyond my control, and which were of a nature to defeat all previous arrangements and calculations. Meantime, I have rejoiced to be assured that the Society has suffered nothing from any default of my own ; that our excellent Vice-Presidents (to whom I acknowledge a special debt) have more than supplied my place ; and that the practical business of the Society has been carried along by the Standing Committee in a manner to leave nothing to be regretted. The completion of our printed Catalogue in two noble volumes, and the publication of a second beautiful volume of our Proceedings, during the past year, would alone be enough to prove that there had been no want of diligence and devotion on the part of those to whom these labors have been intrusted. It has given me peculiar pleasure to be the instrument of placing not a few of these volumes, as well as others of our recent publications, in public and private libraries abroad, where I have the best reason to know they have been appreciated ; and I hope, from time to time, to be able to exhibit the fruit of this distribution in valuable returns to our own library. Nor have I wholly

failed in securing some interesting additions to our manuscript collections, which may hereafter furnish the material of a more deliberate communication. My return home has been too recent to allow of my entering into details to-day.

I must not, however, conclude these informal remarks, without assuring you of the deep interest and sympathy with which I have observed the tributes which you have again and again been called on to pay to those whom we have lost from the roll of our Resident or Honorary Members. I cannot forget that more than one of those most honored and most beloved, at home and abroad, have passed from these earthly scenes and associations since I last had the pleasure of being with you. But I may well congratulate you also, that so many of our most familiar faces, and so many of our most venerable forms, are still spared to us. In the new edition of the "History of Harvard University," and in the two elaborate volumes of the "Genealogical Dictionary of New England," which have been published during my absence, we have unequivocal and welcome assurance, that neither of our two honored senior members have yet pleaded that exemption, which they have long ago earned, from their historical labors and researches. For myself, I can only assure you, gentlemen, that I resume my relations to this Society with renewed interest in its welfare; and that I shall eagerly co-operate once more, in every way in my power, in promoting the objects which it has so long and so successfully pursued.

The President communicated a letter from Samuel Hazard, Esq., of Philadelphia, relating to a rare old Boston almanac printed in 1743.

The President laid before the meeting the first proof-sheet of a calendar of all the papers in her Majesty's State-paper Office relating to the early history of America and the British Colonies down to 1688. He

also read a letter addressed to him by W. Noel Sainsbury in reference to the Colonial series of State-paper calendars upon which that gentleman is now engaged by order of the British Government, and requesting the Massachusetts Historical Society to lend its influence in behalf of his proposals to the United-States Government to continue these calendars, so far as they relate to America, from 1688 to 1783.

This communication was referred to the Standing Committee.

Mr. PAIGE communicated the following paper, giving an account of six folio account-books which had once belonged to Harvard College, and which he had recently found in the library of a deceased neighbor: —

Several months ago, I found, in the library of a deceased neighbor, six folio account-books, which had manifestly once belonged to Harvard College, but which came honestly into my venerable neighbor's possession. At my request, and with the consent of the family, the books have since been returned to the rightful owners. One of these volumes contains the steward's accounts with the corporation, and with the several officers and students, from 1649–50 to 1659: the other five are of a similar character, and embrace the period between 1703 and 1749. The most ancient volume is the most interesting, both because it exhibits the financial affairs of the college at the earliest date, and because the most minute details enter into the accounts. I shall not attempt a full description of this volume; but a few facts may not be uninteresting.

The first circumstance which attracts attention is the moderate cost of a four-years' residence in college. Of those who graduated from 1653 to 1659 (the only classes whose

whole account is embraced in this volume), the total expense ranged from £30. 2s. 1½d. to £61. 11s. 8¾d.; or from about \$100 to about \$200. During the same period, it should be observed, the price of wheat was five shillings per bushel; of barley and malt, four shillings and sixpence; of rye and pease, four shillings; and of Indian corn, three shillings. On his admission, each student was charged about three pounds for "the income of his study," and fifteen shillings for "his room in the gallery." This was the uniform charge for gallery-room, and about the average charge for the study; but, in addition to this, the term-bills always included "study-rent," at a moderate price. On his departure, a charge was made, generally about two pounds,—entered as "commencement-charges;" and, not unfrequently, a present appears to have been bestowed on the president. As an illustration of the ordinary character of college-expenses at that period, I have copied the charges, for his junior year, against Thomas Graves, of the class of 1656:—

		£	s.	d.	qr.
8, 10, 54.	Commones and sizinges	2	8	9	2
	Tuition, 8s.; study, rente, and beed, 4s.; fyer and candell, 2s.		14	0	0
	Fower loode of wood		17	4	0
9, 1, 54-5.	Commones and sizinges	2	16	10	0
	Tuition, study-rente, and beed		12	0	0
	Wood, one load, one jagge		6	6	0
8, 4, 55.	Commones and sizinges	2	9	11	0
	Tuition, 8s.; study-rente, 2s.; by beed makinge, 1s. 9d.		11	9	0
7, 7, 55.	Commones and sizinges	1	12	7	2
	Tuition, 8s.; study-rente and beed		11	7	0

It is curious also to observe how small a proportion of this small expense was defrayed in cash. In many cases, scarcely a shilling was paid in money; but all articles which could be used by the steward in providing commons for the scholars, and many which could not be thus used, were received in barter for instruction. Beef, veal, pork, mutton,

poultry, grain of various kinds, malt, eggs, butter, cheese, apples, cider, fuel, candles, cloths, leather, shoes, and such like articles, abound in the account of receipts. Occasionally, but seldom, tobacco and strong waters were received. Cattle were received alive, and slaughtered for use. Cloths were manufactured into garments, and leather into shoes, for such scholars as had need. As a sample of such payments, take the account of the same Thomas Graves, a son of comparatively rich parents, whose whole expenses in college were far above the average; being £61. 11s. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for the four years. Of this amount, only £6. 6s. were paid in money; and the balance (according to the order in which the articles are first named in the account) in wheat, malt, pease, rye, sugar, hollands, boards, canvas, lockram, nails, eggs, butter, spice, commodities, buttons, candles, honey, turkeys, serge, ribbon, and silk.

This ancient volume is interesting, moreover, because it discloses the name of a steward, Deacon Thomas Chesholme, whose ten-years' stewardship had fallen into oblivion. The volume commences in 1649-50; so near the period of Matthew Day's death (1649), that it must be regarded as the account of his immediate successor. The accounts are in the same handwriting throughout, and the writer is identified by a characteristic balancing of the steward's account with the corporation.

	£	s.	d.	qr.
The steward was creditor, as appears on the other side, folio 295, at the 5, 10, 56.	166	2	9	1
Creditor from 5, 10, 56, to the 6, 1, 56-7, as appears on the other side.	34	12	6	2
Both sumes is.	200	15	3	3
Debitor as above.	18	6	2	2
Restes dew to the steward att 6, 1, 56-7.	182	9	1	1
Per me, THOMAS CHESHOLME; to whom the abovesayd £182. 9s. 1d. 1qr. is dew.				

The close of his stewardship is indicated with sufficient accuracy by another entry in the volume, equally characteristic. In John Wyborne's account, next after the date of 24, 9, 59, is the following:—

“April 6. — Memorandum, that I paid for John Wiborne to Brother Cheeseholme the sume of five pound and ten shillings. I say, received and paid for him by me, Charles Chauncy.

“Item. — Thomas Wiborne hath satisfied of his debt for his brother to the colledge, and to the new steward, Ensigne Shermā, the sume of foure pound ten shillings. — By me, Charles Chauncy.”

This volume contains many other interesting matters; but I have already trespassed sufficiently on your patience. I will only add, that I am very happy to have been instrumental in the recovery of this and the other volumes mentioned, and in their return to the college, from which they had probably been absent more than a hundred years.

Liberty was granted to Dr. Holmes, at his written request, to make certain extracts from the manuscript Diary of Sir Henry Franckland, for the illustration of a narrative poem written by himself.

A request from Winthrop Sargent, Esq., for permission to make transcripts of certain letters in the Heath Collection of Manuscripts was granted under the rules.

OCTOBER MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting was held this day, Thursday, Oct. 11, at noon, in the Dowse Library; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

In the absence of the Librarian, the Recording Secretary announced donations from the Chicago Histo-